

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 /074 W

-----071205Z 096543 /43

R 071120Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0351

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: NATAL "TURNHALLE" PROPOSAL

REF: DURBAN 255, 267

1. SUMMARY: THE NATAL "TURNHALLE" PROPOSAL OF EARLY MAY STILL HAS DRAWN NO OFFICIAL REACTION FROM THE SAG BUT MEANWHILE HAS BECOME SUBMERGED IN THE ONGOING COUNTRYWIDE DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS "CANTONAL" OR "FEDERAL" SCHEMES FOR POWER SHARING. A NATAL GOVERNMENT LEADER HAS INSISTED THAT SOME FORM OF MULTIRACIAL CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE IN NATAL WITH OR WITHOUT SAG PERMISSION. CHIEF BUTHELEZI HAS EXPRESSED HIS RESERVATIONS PENDING THE OFFERING OF MORE CONCRETE PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NATAL "TURNHALLE" INITIATIVE FOR MULTIRACIAL COOPERATION HAS MADE NO FORWARD PROGRESS SINCE ITS LAUNCHING IN EARLY MAY. A REQUESTED AUDIENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO DISCUSS THE INITIATIVE HAS YET TO BE GRANTED. (THE PRO-UNCLASSIFIED

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JECT'S PRINCIPAL AUTHOR, SENIOR NATAL EXCO MEMBER FRANK MARTIN, CURRENTLY IS IN THE U.S. ON AN IV GRANT.) THE REMAINING EXCO MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE AND ARDENT IN ESPOUSAL OF THE IDEA, BUT THEIR PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS HAVE BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY THE DISCUSSION EMANATING FROM MINISTER KOORNHOF'S RAISING OF A "CANTONAL" APPROACH TO POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND THE ENSUING COUNTRYWIDE DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS FEDERAL OR CONFEDERAL SCHEMES. ONE SENIOR

EXCO MEMBER, DERING STAINBANK, ANNOUNCED JUNE 4 THAT NATAL WOULD GO AHEAD WITH SOME FORM OF "TURNHALLE"-TYPE MULTIRACIAL CONFERENCE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE SAG GRANTED ITS PERMISSION.

3. TO BE GENUINELY VALID, THE NATAL INITIATIVE WOULD REQUIRE THE PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION OF CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI AND KWAZULU AUTHORITIES AND PEOPLE. BUTHELEZI HAS BEEN APPROACHED SEVERAL TIMES BY THE NATAL PRESS FOR CLARIFICATION ON HIS STAND, BUT HAS REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO COMMENT PENDING CLARIFICATION OF WHAT THE (UNITED PARTY-SPONSORED) CONFERENCE INVOLVES. BUTHELEZI SAID HE FELT THE USE OF THE WORD "TURNHALLE" WAS PSYCHOLOGICALLY BAD IN VIEW OF OVERSEAS OPPOSITION TO THE TERM. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE UNITED PARTY HAD NEVER REACTED TO HIS OWN APPEAL OF DECEMBER 1976 FOR BLACK AND WHITE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO WORK TOGETHER FOR CHANGE. HE BELIEVED THE UP SHOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT OF BELIEF (WHICH BOTH THE PRP AND INKATHA HAD DONE) BEFORE ENTERING DISCUSSIONS. BUTHELEZI SAID ALSO THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN INKATHA'S AUTHORITY TO ENTER ANY NEGOTIATIONS.FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, NEGOTIATIONS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DURBAN00351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770202-0504
Format: TEL
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770684/aaaacvnt.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eca4bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DURBAN 255
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2252890
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATAL \"TURNHALLE\" PROPOSAL
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SF, (BUTHELEZI, GATSHA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eca4bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009